

Iraqi Police Levels Near 100 Percent: Emphasis on Quality



Iraqi police officers provide security at a temporary medical center in the Ghazaliyah section of Baghdad. (Department of Defense photo by Gunner's Mate 1st Class Martin Anton Edgil.)

Approximately 128,000 of the 135,000 planned Iraqi police have been trained and equipped, and the 135,000th policeman is in school now and will graduate in mid-October.

The focus now is on improving the quality of the police force.

"From the standpoint of the institution, the real focus is on the individual," U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Peterson, the commander of the civilian police assistance training team, said in a news conference in Iraq.

Some 185 police transition teams, including civil policemen and international police liaison officers, are embedded at police station and provincial levels, working on community policing. Other teams help elsewhere in Iraq, including 39 embedded with the national police.

In the last month, Coalition forces have targeted death squads and militias in Iraq and through those efforts have made many arrests and stopped sectarian killings, Peterson said. In these arrests, the Coalition has seen no evidence that the Ministry of Interior was involved in any militias or death squads, he said.

Links: Peterson Sept. 20 [transcript](#); MNF-Iraq [story](#); AFPS [story](#).

Interior Ministry Grows in Capability to Train, Manage Forces

- A five-year strategic directive will implement the Minister of Interior's vision for the Iraqi police. The focus is on loyalty, accountability and operational performance.
- A process to build a professional development system for the Iraqi police force is in place. The first two courses will begin this year. The curriculum is geared toward Iraqi officers at the supervisory and leader levels.
- In October the Baghdad Police College will start training 1,000 policemen to become officers. The law enforcement degree will take three years to earn. The goal is to increase the program by an additional 2,000 officers training at the college by next October.
- By the end of this year, Iraqis will take control of the 12 police academies in the country and will run the academies on their own.
- A national information and investigative agency has been established, similar to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the United States.
- The 2007 budget was submitted on time and a comprehensive national maintenance and logistics plan has been drafted, a key component of sustaining future operations.

Links: Peterson Sept. 20 [transcript](#).

Iraqi Government Assumes Control in Dhi Qar

The government of Iraq took control of the southern province of Dhi Qar on Sept. 21 in a move Coalition officials called "another sign of progress toward a stable and secure Iraq," placing the country one step closer to full governance.

Dhi Qar is the second of Iraq's 18 provinces transferred to provincial Iraqi control. Muthana province was transferred on July 13. Dhi Qar, with 1.8 million residents, has three times the population of Muthana.

"It's a great day. It holds the message of the future handover of security control in all Iraq," Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Kurt A. Cichowski, a deputy chief of Multi-National Force-Iraq, said there are four key conditions to determine a province's eligibility for transfer:

- Capability of the Iraqi Security Forces;
- Threat levels in the province;
- Local government capacity; and
- The provincial government's relationship with Coalition forces.

Dhi Qar is especially important to archaeologists, historians and tourists. It contains the site of the ancient city of Ur, purported to be the hometown of the biblical figure Abraham.

Links: MNF-Iraq [story](#); MNF-Iraq [story](#).



Iraqi police march in a parade celebrating the handover of Dhi Qar province to Iraqi Security Forces at Camp Ur, Iraq, on Sept. 21, 2006. (Department of Defense photo by Army Sgt. Frank Pellegrini.)